

In regards to Bill #HB 5147 to increase the maximum penalty for 2nd time offenders of malicious animal cruelty.

State Rep. Gary Byron is hoping to strengthen animal cruelty laws with this bill imposing stiffer penalties on anyone convicted of intentionally maiming, torturing or mutilating animals to a seven year prison sentence and potentially a \$5,000 fine.

Byron would also like to support a bill that would create an offender list for those convicted of animal cruelty.

I agree with these proposals, although we should have stiffer penalties for FIRST time offenders, sending the message that we will not tolerate abuse. We need people to be held accountable for their cruel and unnecessary actions and tighten the full extent of our law concerning this issue.

I strongly agree with this idea and would love to see more people in our political world to show that kind of compassion for God's other creatures that also deserve life in peace.

Thank you for your hopeful time in reading this as well as your hopeful interest in aiding us in the fight and not the problem.

Thank you,  
Kelly Pugh